

MAPLECREST









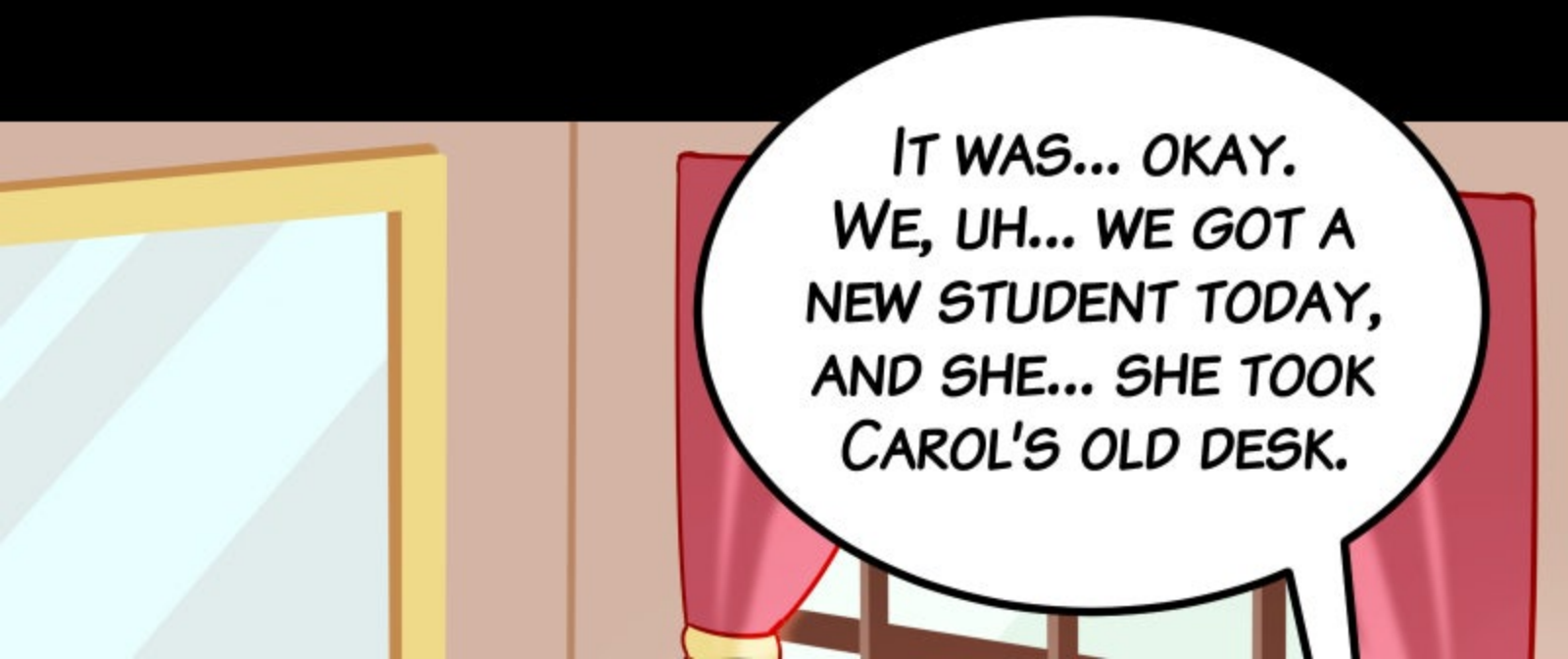


FORKS ON
THE LEFT.

I KNOW,
I KNOW.



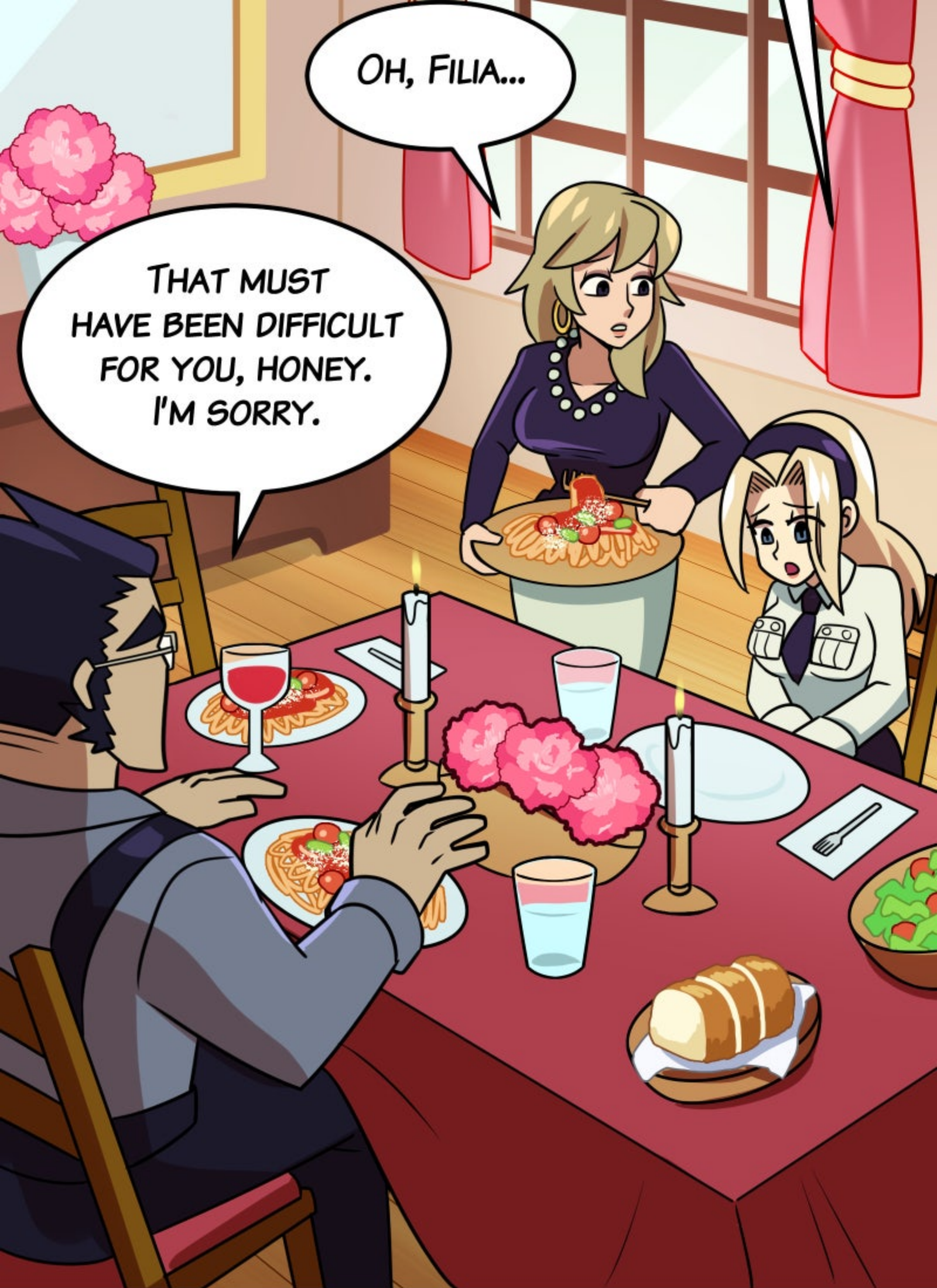
OUR LITTLE MISS
KNOW-IT-ALL, WE'VE
TRAINED HER WELL.
HOW WAS SCHOOL
TODAY?

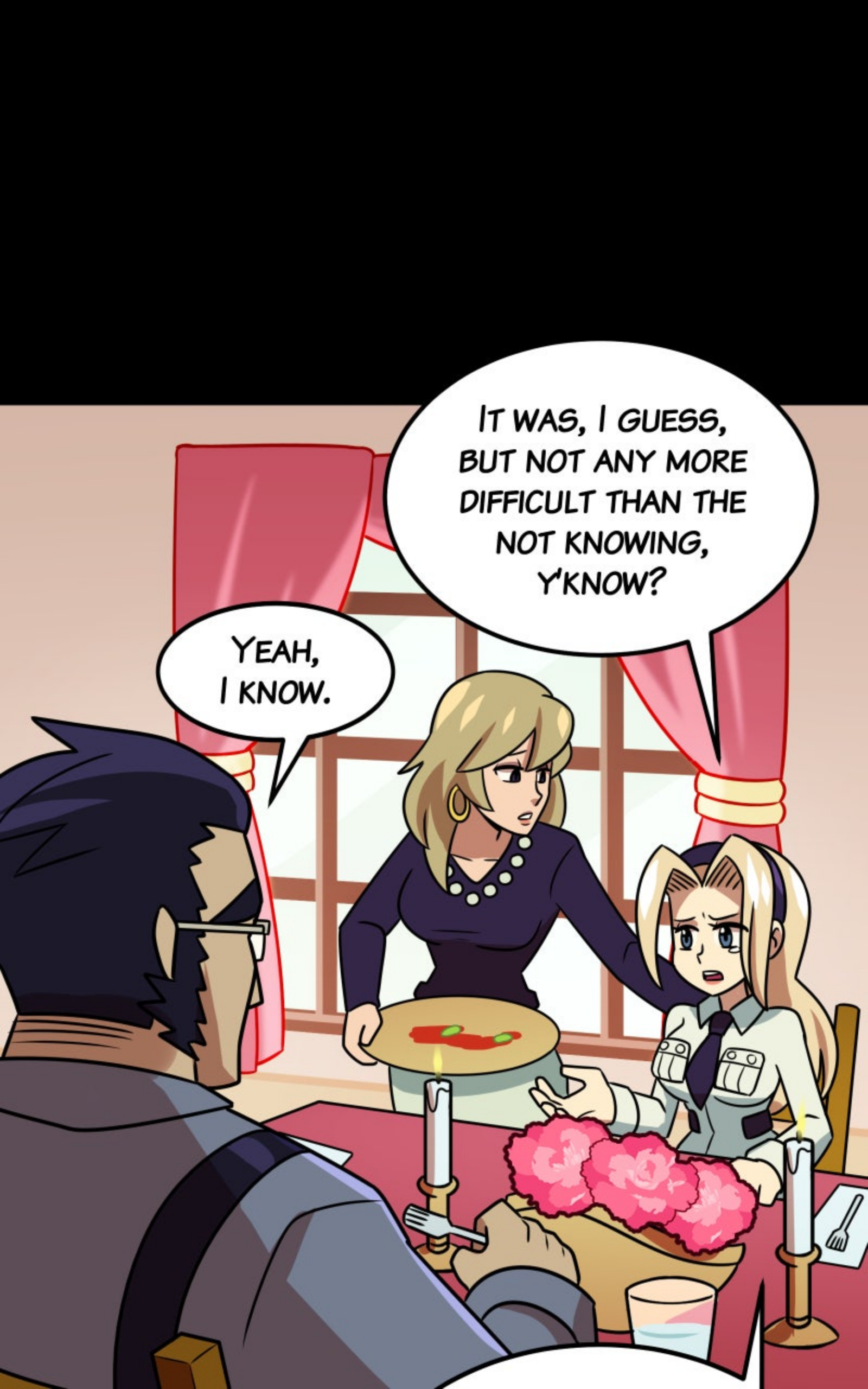


IT WAS... OKAY.
WE, UH... WE GOT A
NEW STUDENT TODAY,
AND SHE... SHE TOOK
CAROL'S OLD DESK.

OH, FILIA...

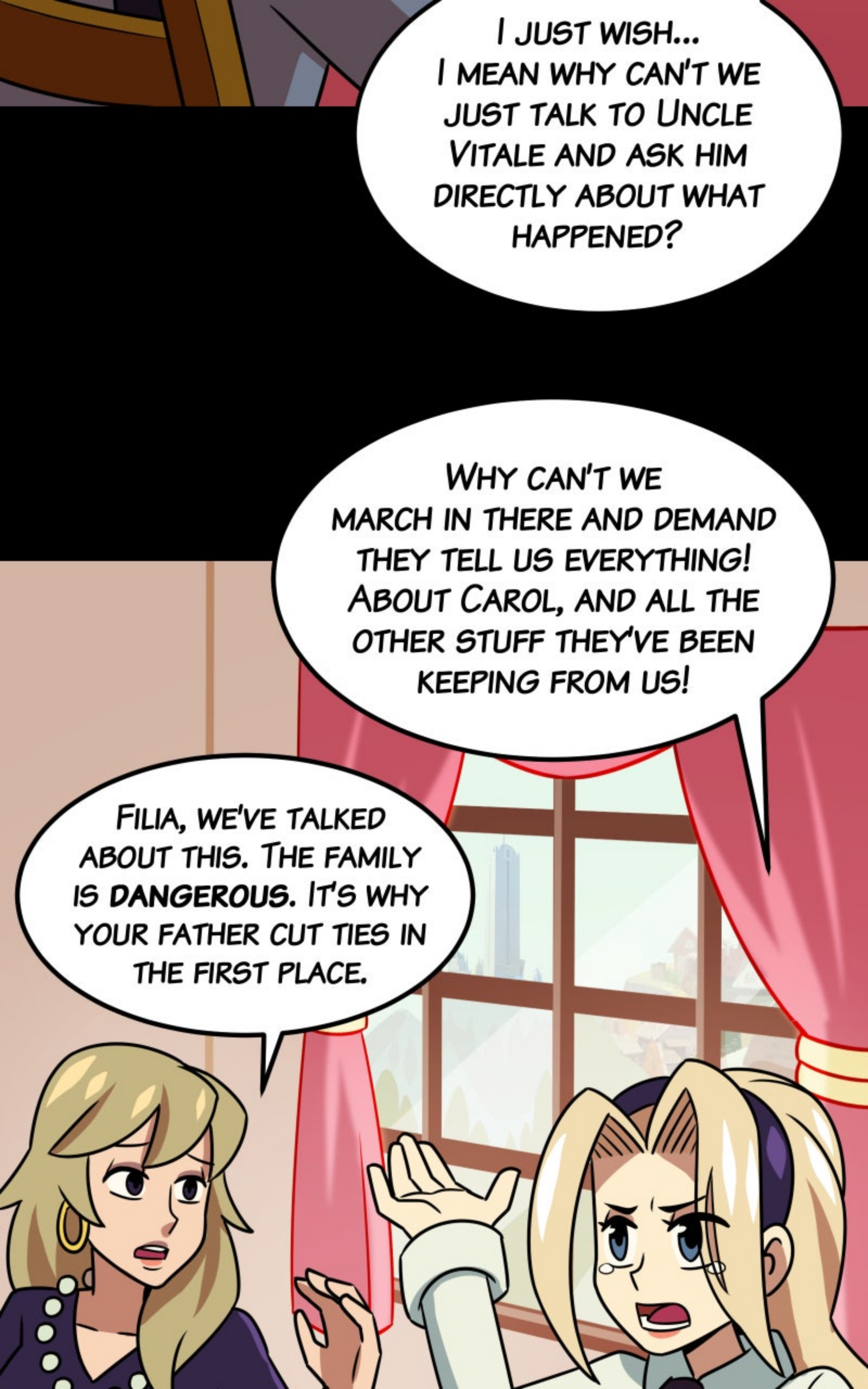
THAT MUST
HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT
FOR YOU, HONEY.
I'M SORRY.





IT WAS, I GUESS,
BUT NOT ANY MORE
DIFFICULT THAN THE
NOT KNOWING,
Y'KNOW?

YEAH,
I KNOW.



I JUST WISH...
I MEAN WHY CAN'T WE
JUST TALK TO UNCLE
VITALE AND ASK HIM
DIRECTLY ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED?

WHY CAN'T WE
MARCH IN THERE AND DEMAND
THEY TELL US EVERYTHING!
ABOUT CAROL, AND ALL THE
OTHER STUFF THEY'VE BEEN
KEEPING FROM US!

FILIA, WE'VE TALKED
ABOUT THIS. THE FAMILY
IS **DANGEROUS**. IT'S WHY
YOUR FATHER CUT TIES IN
THE FIRST PLACE.



AND EVEN IF I HADN'T,
I WAS NEVER PRIVY TO ALL THEIR
DEALINGS. I DIDN'T WANT TO BE,
BECAUSE I KNEW IT MIGHT PUT
YOU AND YOUR MOTHER IN
DANGER, WHICH IS THE LAST
THING I'D EVER WANT.



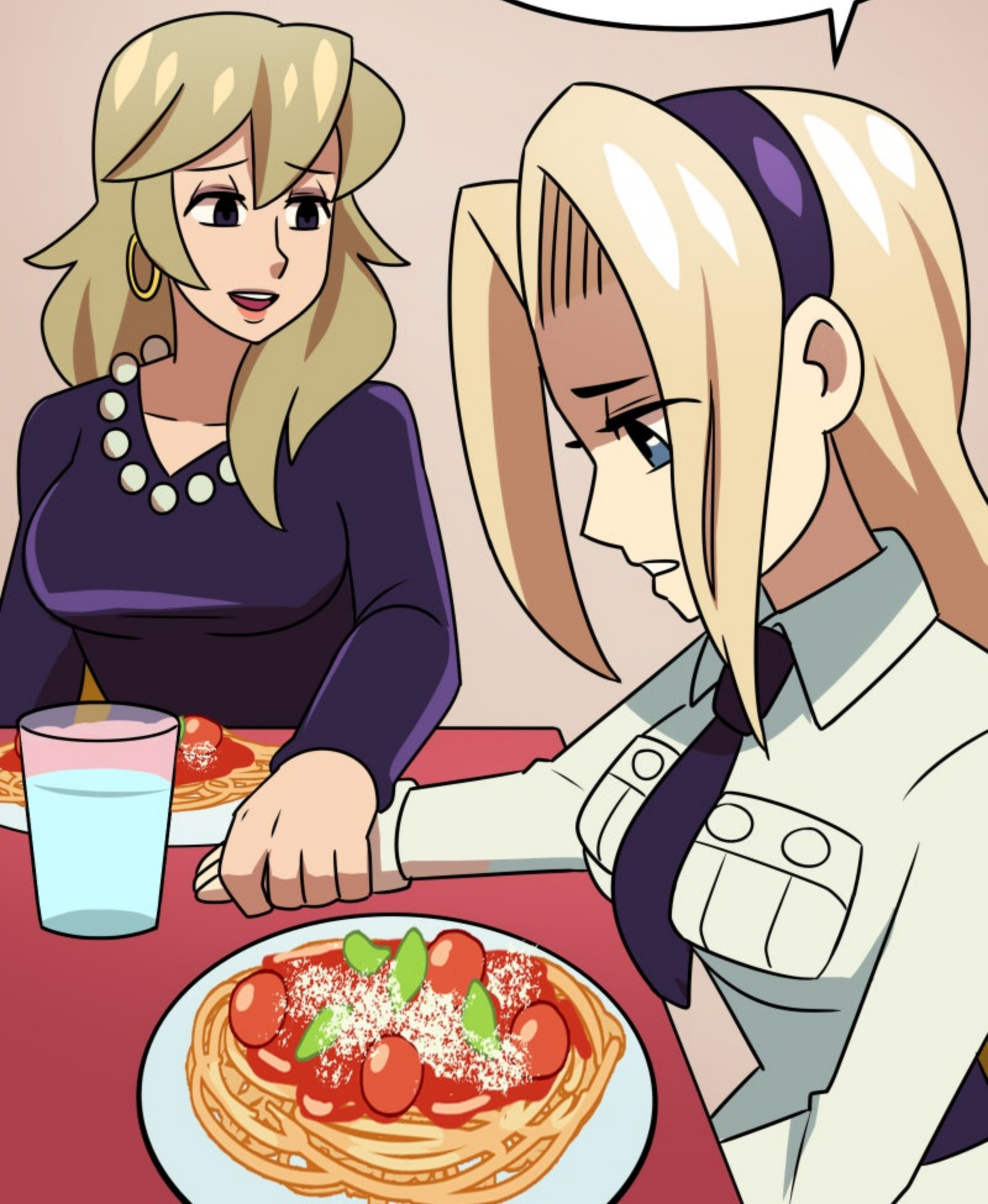


I UNDERSTAND HOW
UPSET YOU ARE. IT'S FRUSTRATING
NOT KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED.
BUT WE CAN'T MARCH INTO MEDICI
TOWER AND FORCE ANSWERS OUT
OF THEM.

I PROMISE YOU, NONE OF
US IS GIVING UP ON FINDING OUT
WHAT HAPPENED TO CAROL, BUT IF

WE'RE NOT CAREFUL SHE WON'T BE
THE ONLY ONE TO DISAPPEAR IN
THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

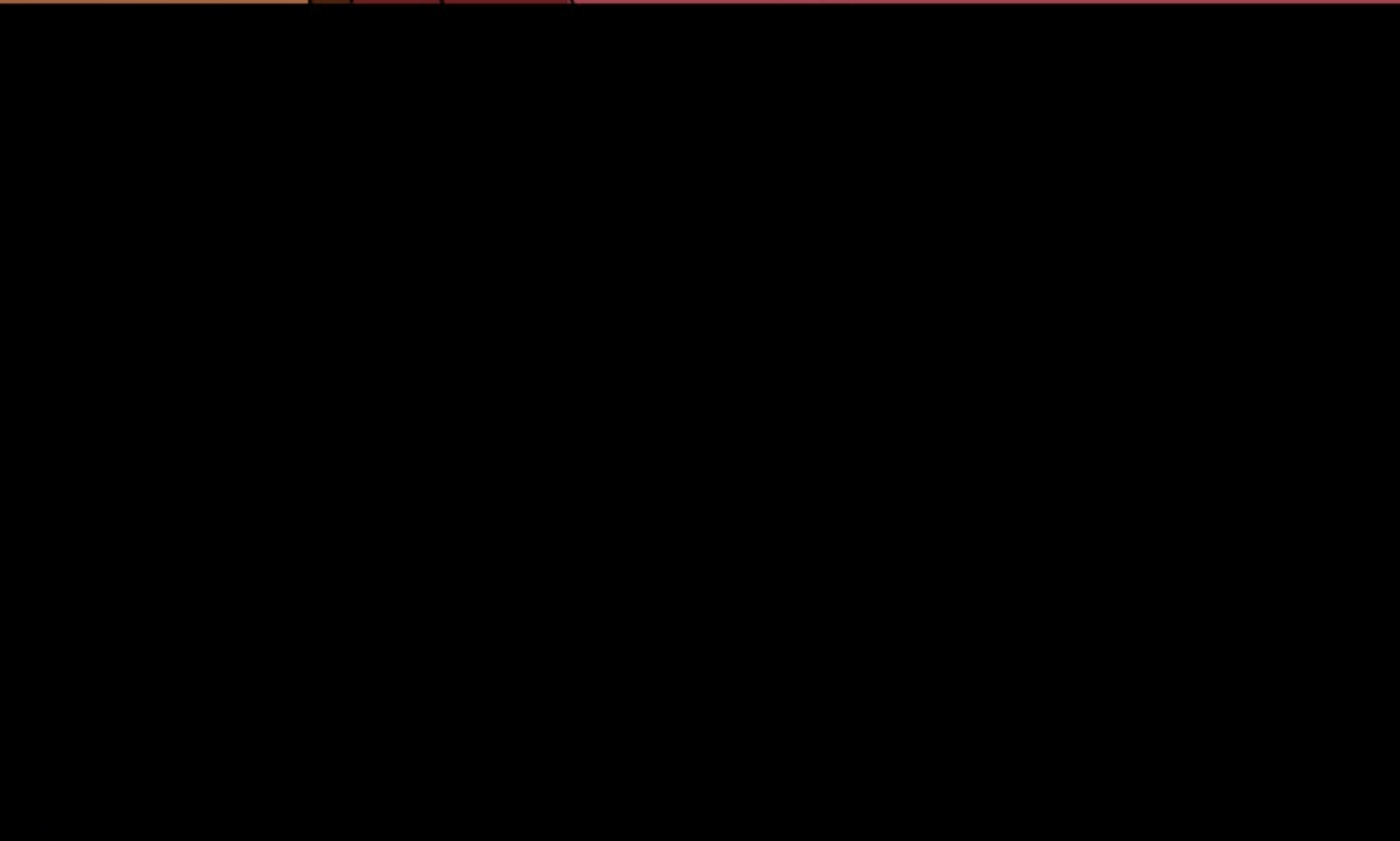
I GET IT, IT'S JUST...
IT'S SO FRUSTRATING.

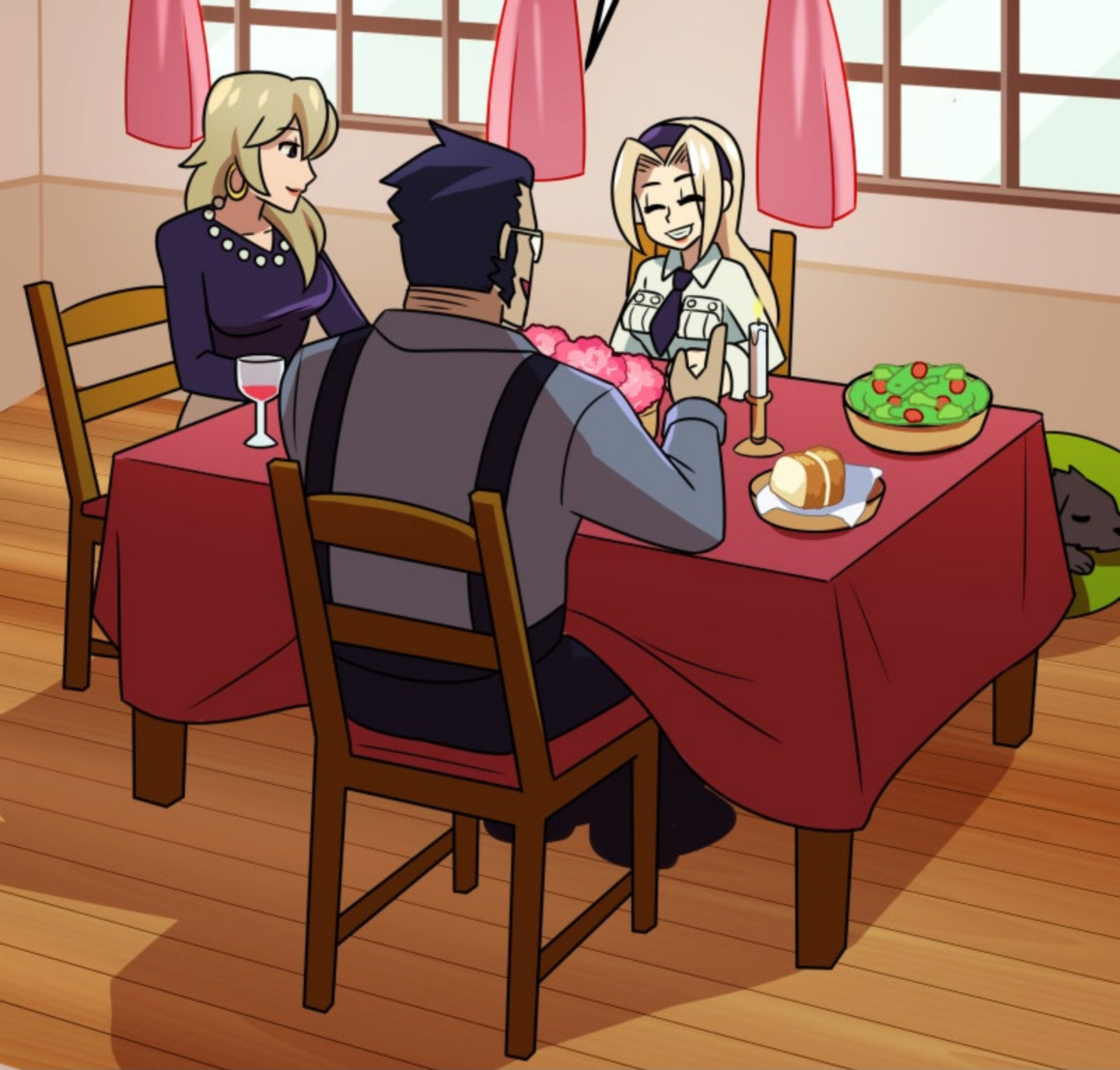




YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'M SORRY, KIDDO, AND I
PROMISE YOU CAN TALK
TO US ABOUT ANYTHING
YOU NEED, OKAY? WE
LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU GUYS TOO.
MAYBE WE COULD TALK
A LITTLE MORE ABOUT
IT... OVER DESSERT?















BOOM!





DOG,
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?
STOP THAT!

BARK

BARK



BARK

SKREEESH!





AAAAHHH!

FILIA?!





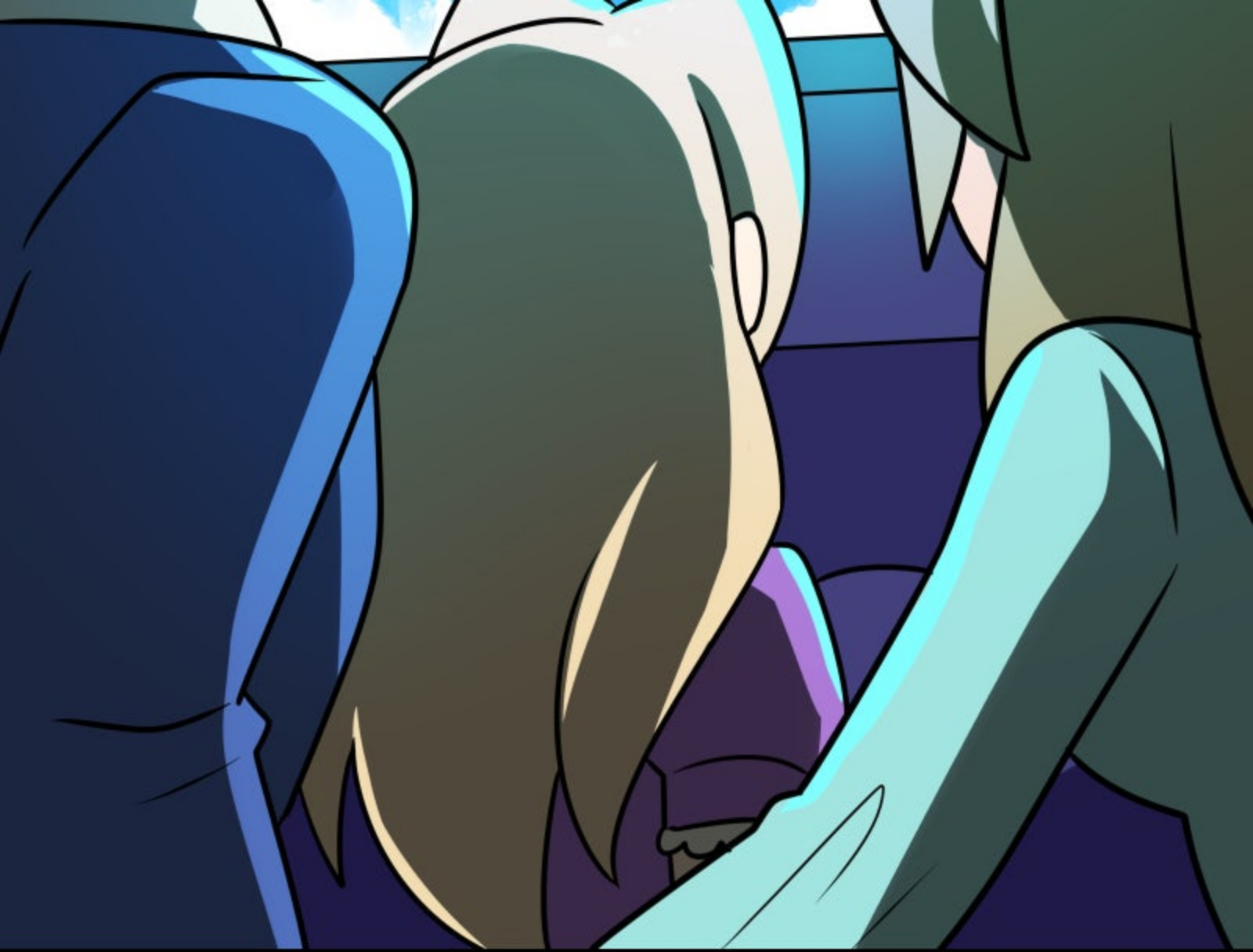
MY GODDESS,
WHAT HAPPENED? ARE
YOU ALL RIGHT?

Y-YOU
GUYS...
LOOK...





OH... OH,
GODDESS.

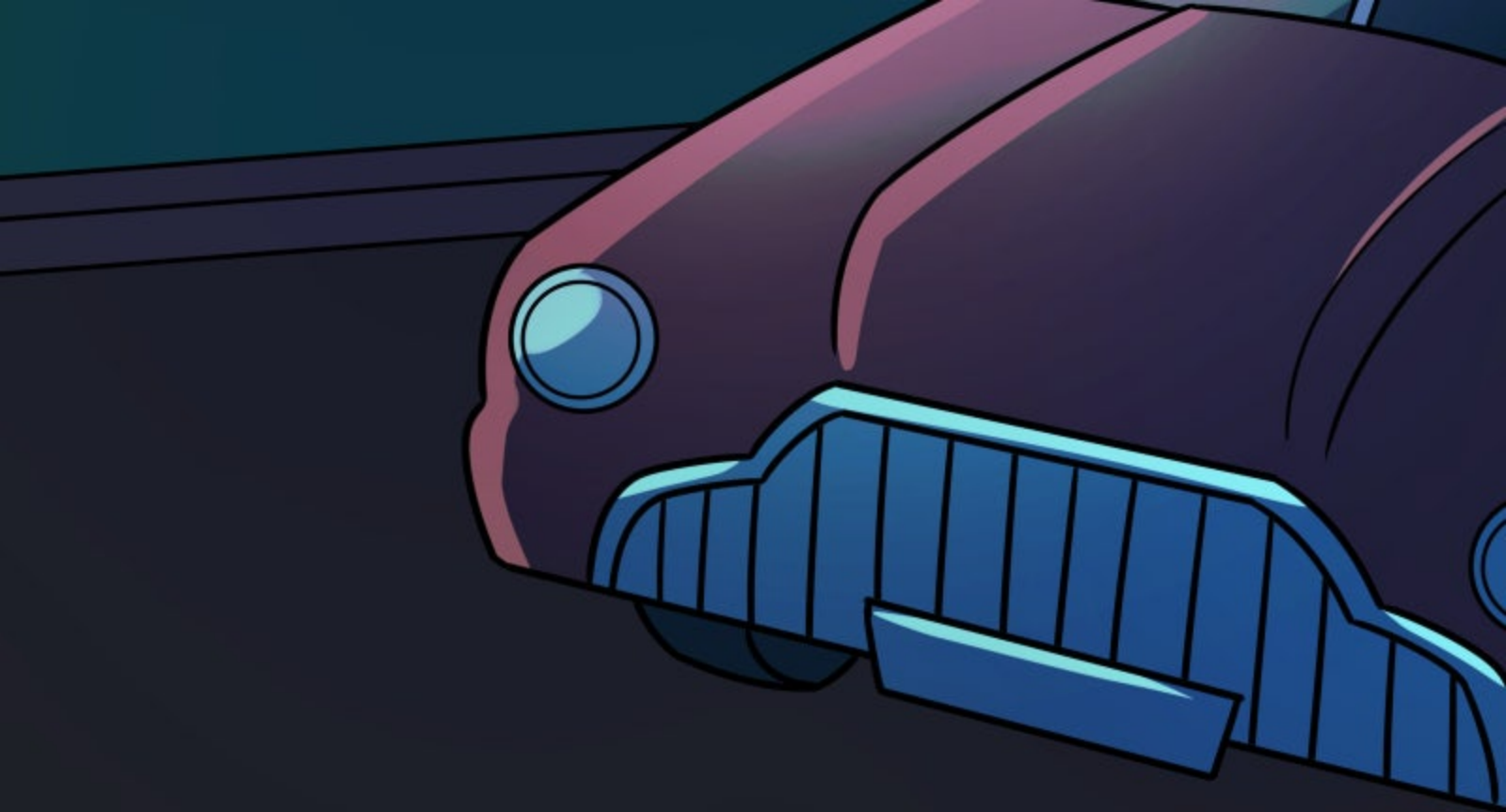




MOVE, MOVE!



GET TO
THE CAR! WE'RE
GETTING OUT OF
HERE.



BWA-ROOM

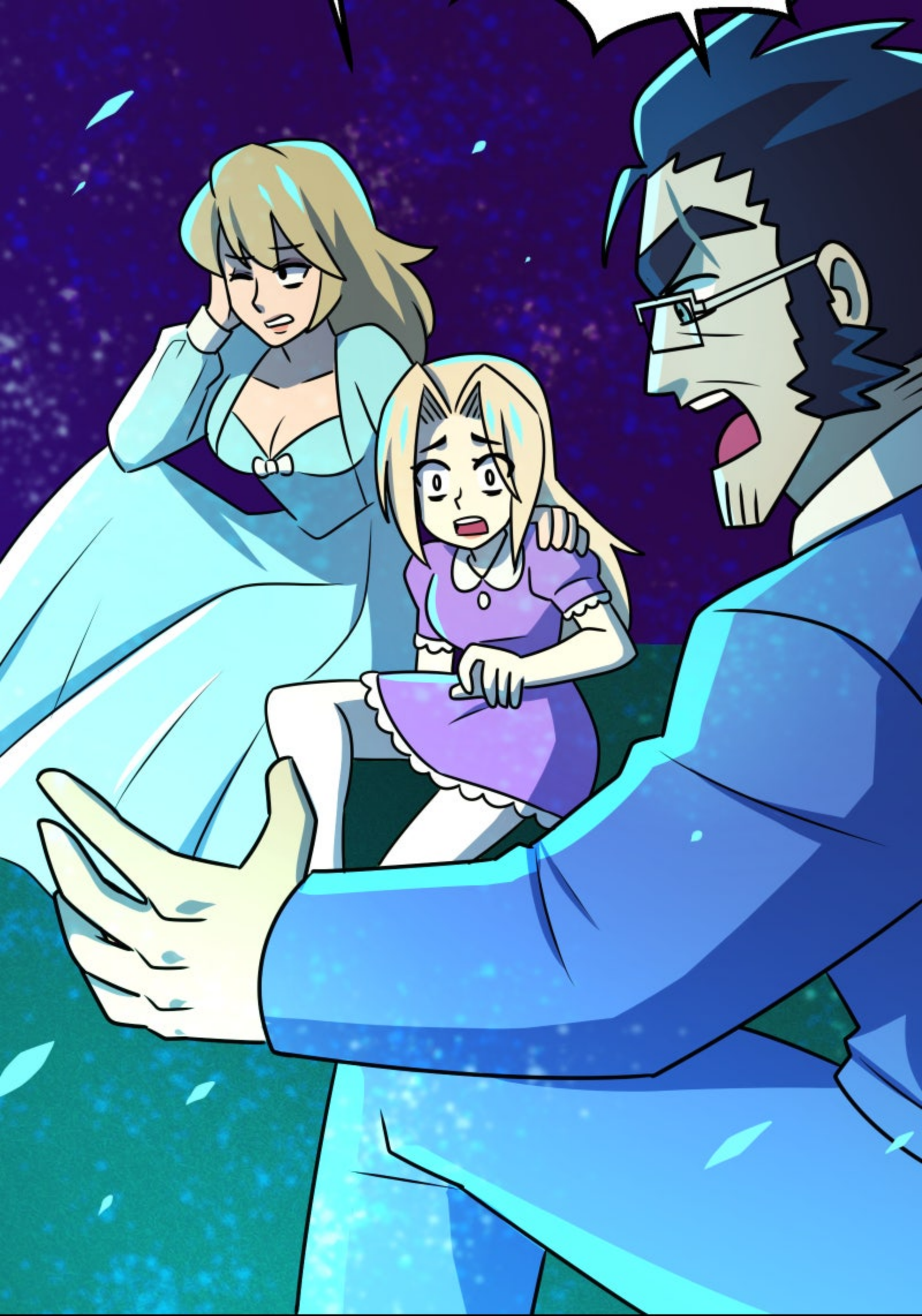






AHH!

IT'S OKAY!
FILIA, YOU'RE ALL
RIGHT!



KRA-BOOM!





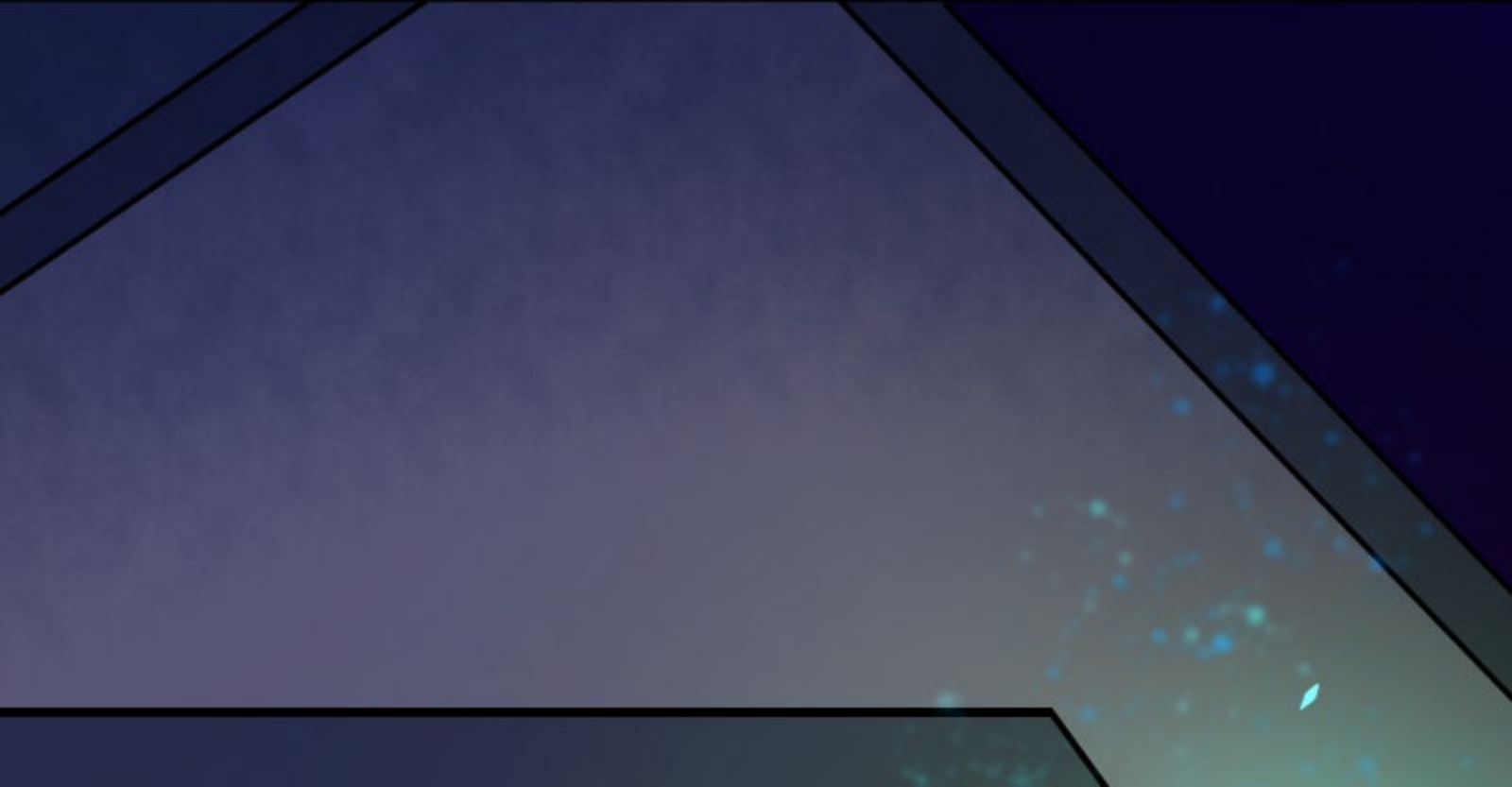
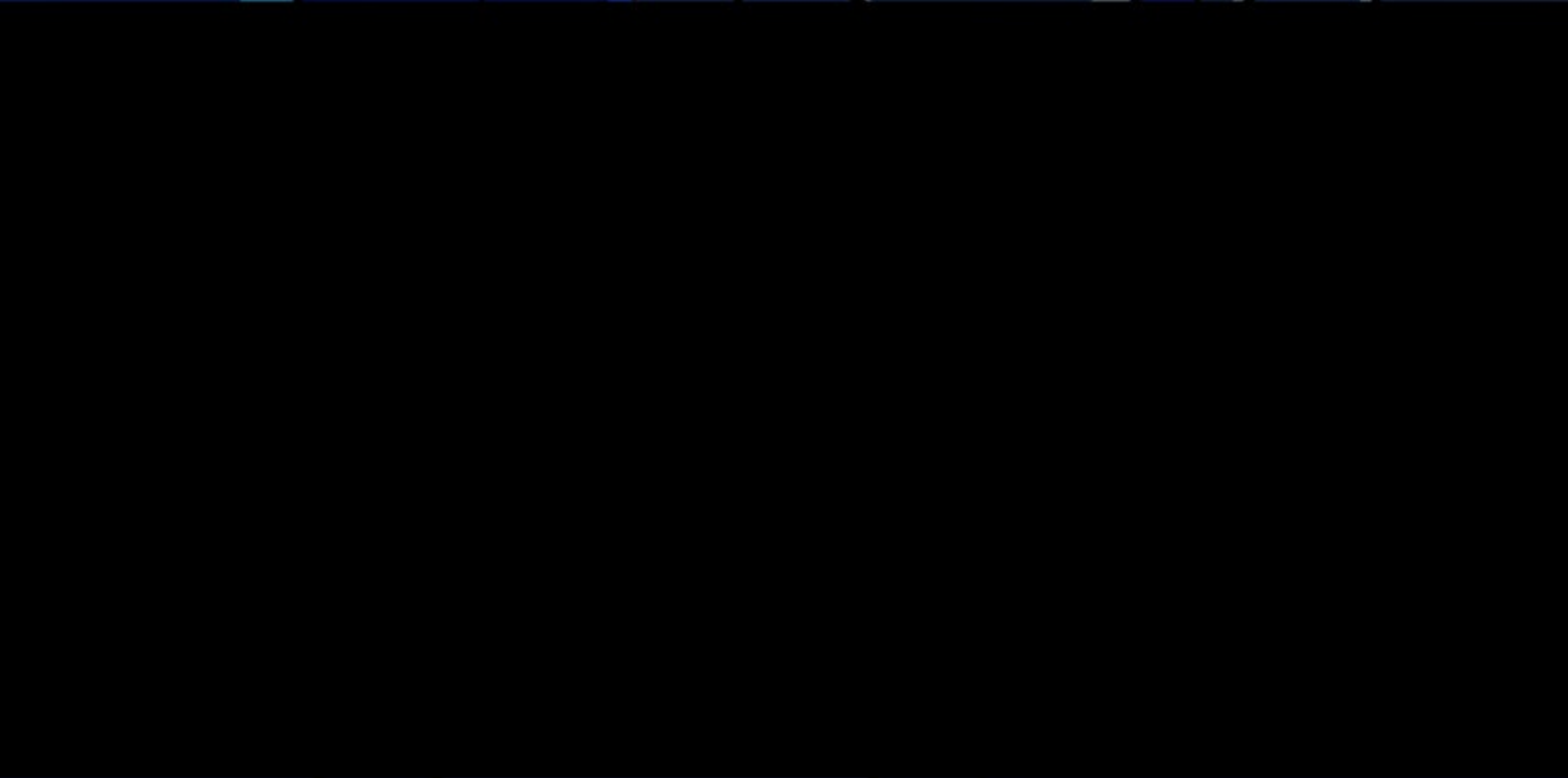


LOOK!

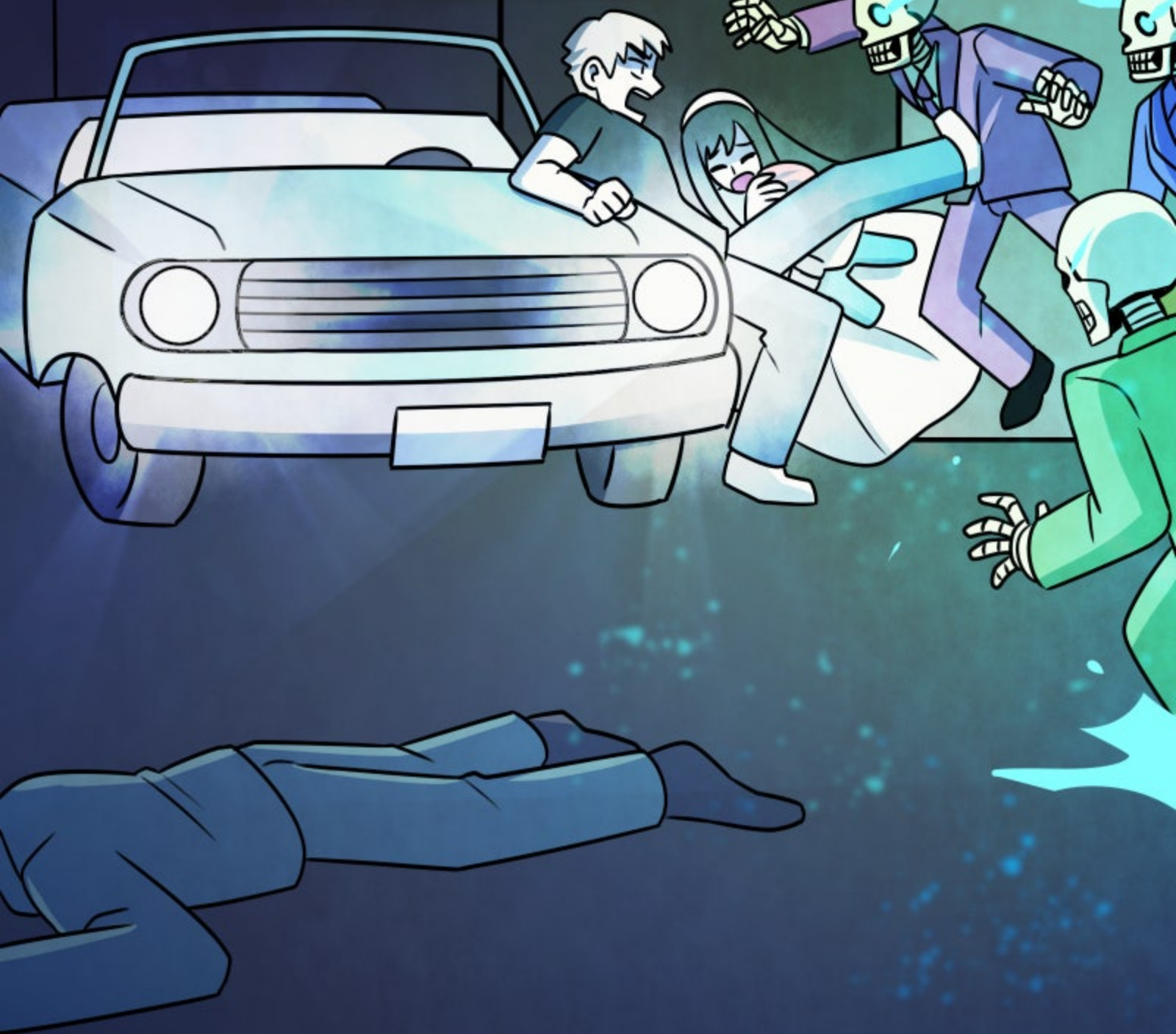


OVER HERE!

HURRY!



AAAAHH!!!





OH NO!
No!

I'M GONNA
BE SICK!

A man with glasses and a blue suit is running towards the right, holding the hand of a woman with long blonde hair. The woman is holding the hand of a young girl with blonde hair in a purple dress. They are running on a dark path at night. In the background, there is a house with a porch and a large tree. The scene is lit with a blueish-green glow. A speech bubble from the man says "C'MON, KEEP MOVING! WE CAN'T STOP!". A speech bubble from the girl says "WHERE ARE WE GOING?". A green teddy bear is lying on the ground in the bottom left corner.

C'MON, KEEP
MOVING! WE
CAN'T STOP!

WHERE ARE
WE GOING?



Maplecrest Park

MARCUS,
OVER THERE...



I SEE IT! FILIA, HEAD
FOR THE PARK, WE CAN
LOSE THEM IN THERE!



WHAT ARE
WE SUPPOSED
TO DO NOW?





GRRRRRRRRRRR







WHAT DO WE
HAVE HERE?



CAN IT BE THE MIGHTY
MEDICI ARE NOTHING MORE
THAN RATS FLEEING A
BURNING SHIP?





DID YOU REALLY
THINK YOU COULD SLINK
AWAY? ALL MEDICI MUST
PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
YOU'RE NO EXCEPTION.





BUT
WE'RE NOT
LIKE THEM!



FILIA,



STAY BACK!

AND YET HERE YOU ARE,
LIVING COMFORTABLY IN THEIR MIDST,
BENEFITING FROM THE PAIN THEY INFLICT
ON THOSE LESS PRIVILEGED THAN YOU,
WITHOUT REGRET OR RESTITUTION.
YOU'RE JUST AS INSIDIOUS AS
THEY ARE.

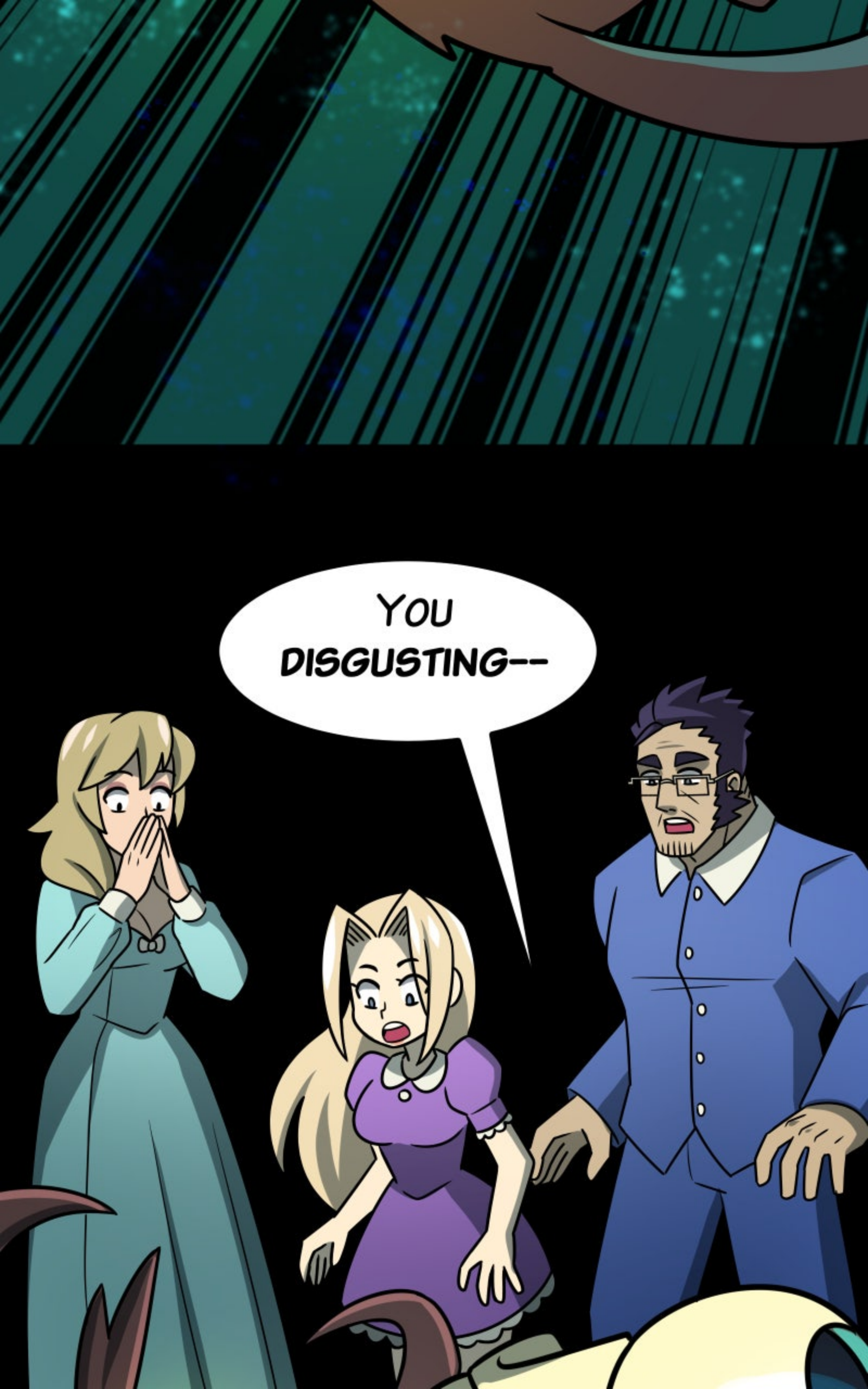












A comic panel with a dark background featuring diagonal teal and black lines and small blue sparkles. At the top, a large, curved, brown object is partially visible. In the center, a white speech bubble contains the text "YOU DISGUSTING--". On the left, a blonde woman in a light blue dress covers her mouth with her hands in shock. In the middle, a blonde girl in a purple dress looks surprised. On the right, a man with glasses and a blue suit looks concerned. The bottom of the panel shows parts of other characters, including a brown horn and a yellow head.

YOU
DISGUSTING--



BACK OFF,
SKULLGIRL, OR
YOU'LL SEE OUR BITE
IS WORSE THAN OUR
BARK.

WAIT,

WHAT... WHAT
IS THIS? I...

I KNOW
YOU.



WHATEVER
YOU SAY, OKAY?
JUST LEAVE US
ALONE!





NO, IT'S A TRICK.
YOU'RE TRYING TO
CONFUSE ME... TO SAVE
YOUR PATHETIC LIVES!





WELL IT'S...
IT'S NOT GOING
TO WORK.





I MAY NOT HAVE...
TIME TO MAKE YOU
SUFFER FOR THE SINS
YOU'VE COMMITTED.



WEEEEEOOOO!

WEEEEEOOOO!





BUT THAT
DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE
TO SPARE YOU.



THIS KINDNESS
IS MORE THAN YOU
DESERVE, MEDICI.



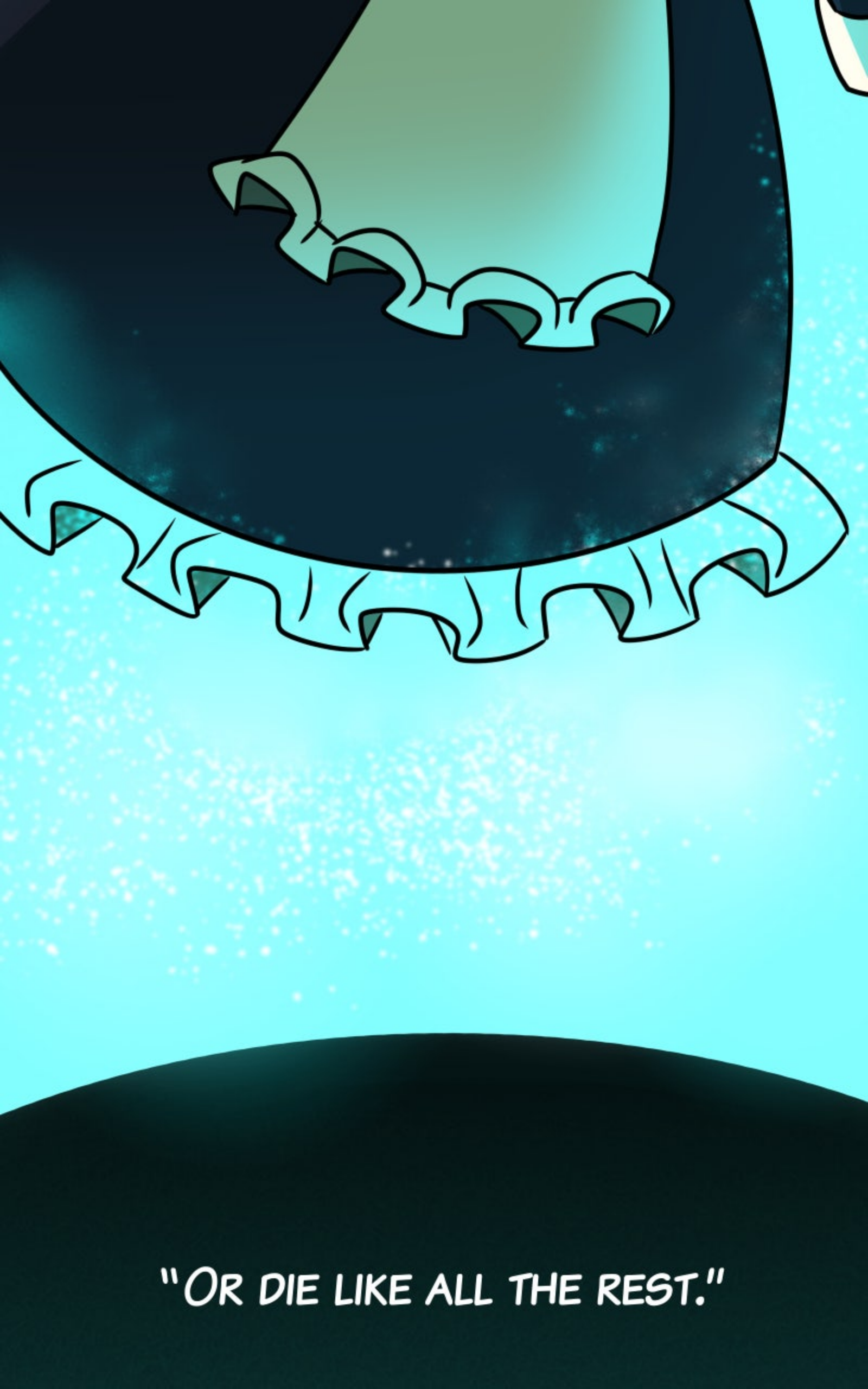




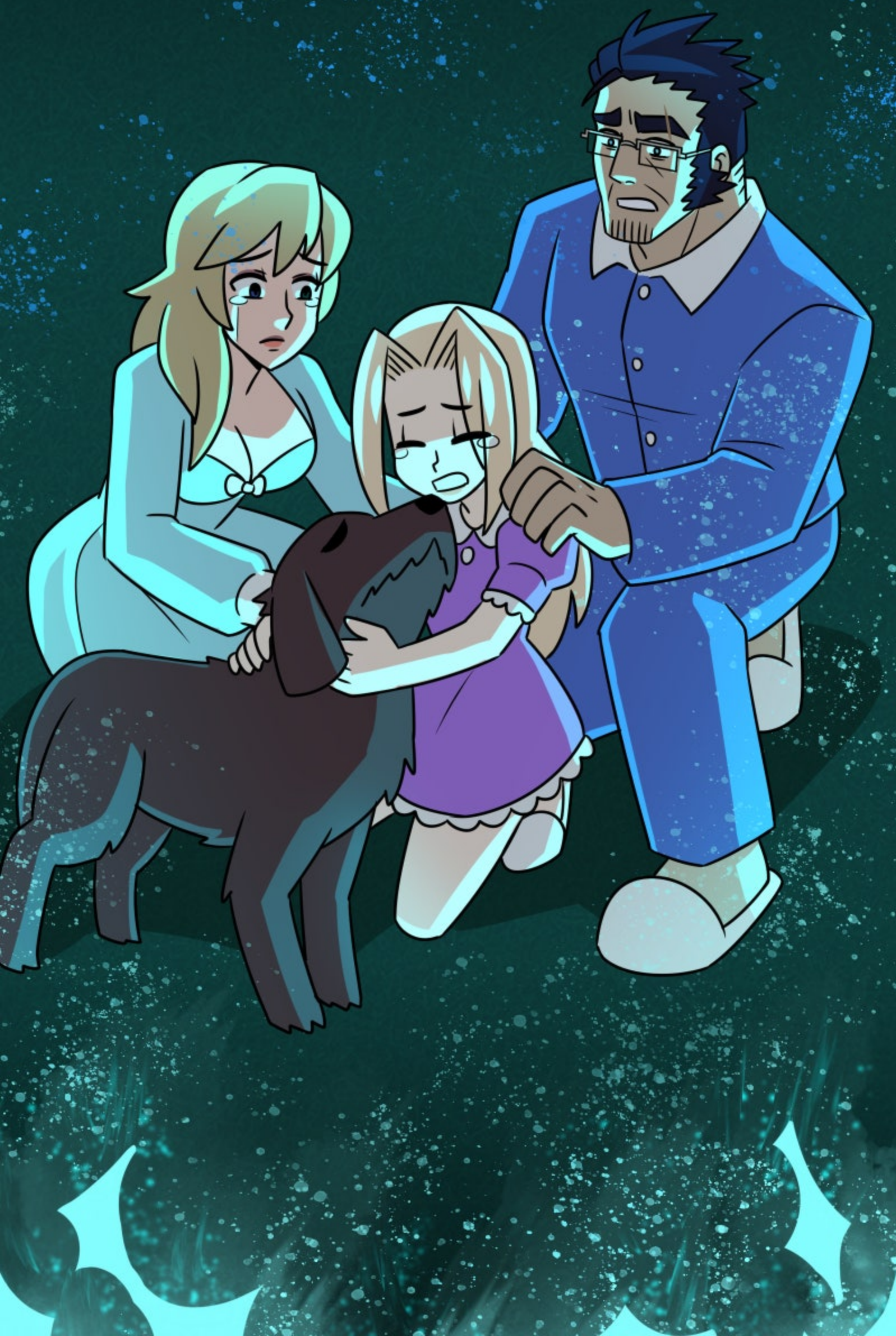


SAVE
YOURSELVES, IF
YOU CAN.

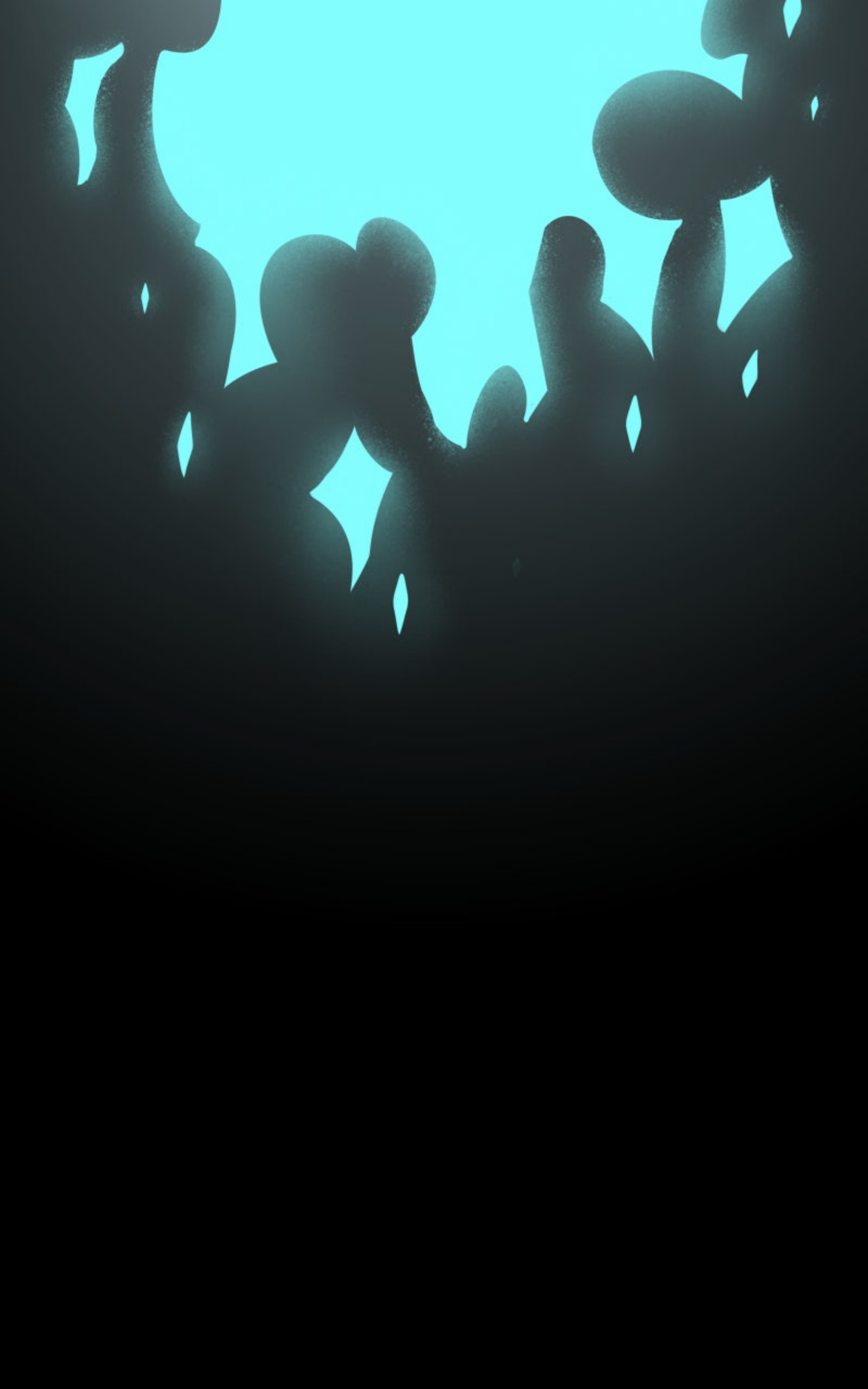




"OR DIE LIKE ALL THE REST."









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